

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please further amend the amended Claim 1 as filed: 01/22/2007 as follows:

1. (currently Amended) A multiple-fold umbrella shaft comprising:  
a plurality of hollow cylindrical tubes gradually increasing tube diameter from an innermost tube to an outermost tube, and telescopically engageable with one another about a longitudinal axis of a central shaft; each said tube having a plurality of reinforcing ribs longitudinally formed, evenly distributed and radially recessed inwardly in a cylindrical tubular surface of each said tube, with any two neighboring reinforcing ribs defining an equal central angle about the longitudinal axis of the central shaft; whereby upon assembling of the plurality of said tubes to form a multiple-fold umbrella shaft, an inner tube has a plurality of said reinforcing ribs slidably engaged with a plurality of said reinforcing ribs of an outer tube disposed around said inner tube for preventing from twisting or vibration of the tubes of the central shaft;  
said reinforcing ribs of said tubes having centers of a plurality of curvature radii of said reinforcing ribs radially aligned to be a radial line which is radially aligned with a longitudinal axis of the central shaft; said longitudinal axis longitudinally aligned with all centers of the tubes; and  
the improvement which comprises:  
said inner tube and said outer tube defining ~~a tiny~~ an annular aperture homogeneously in between the two neighboring tubes

having each said reinforcing rib of the inner tube slidably engaged with each said reinforcing rib of the outer tube to prevent from frictional contacting between the two neighboring tubes to enhance a smooth sliding movement of the tubes when folding or unfolding the tubes for closing or opening the umbrella.